

Whatcom County

Council Special Committee of the Whole

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



Action Summary

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

9:15 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:15 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil,
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order**Roll Call**

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, Mark Stremler, Elizabeth Boyle, and Jessica Rienstra

Announcements**Special Order of Business**

1. [AB2026-003](#) Reorganization of the Whatcom County Council for 2026

NOMINATED AND APPOINTED- SEE ATTACHED

Motion approved to hold on the appointment of Health Board Chair and Vice Chair until the first Health Board meeting on February 3.

Items Added by Revision**Other Business****Adjournment**

2026 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND BOARD ASSIGNMENTS
 () Indicates Committee Chair

As of 1/13/2026

County Council Committee Assignments	Barry Buchanan	Elizabeth Boyle	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jessica Rienstra	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler
Council Chairperson (Acts as Chair of Council acting in other capacities, Law Library Board, SWISS Exec. Committee, County Finance Committee)				X			
Council Vice-Chairperson						X	
Executive Pro-Tempore (Can not be on COG)	X						
Standing Committees	<i>per ORD2025-065 / 7 member committees, 1 chair - 2 vice chairs</i>						
Criminal Justice and Public Safety	(X)	VC					VC
Finance & Administrative Services - Chair of Finance Committee will automatically act as Council Rep. to What-Comm Administrative Board and Risk Management Working Group Board of Directors (AB2025-575)		VC			VC	(X)	
Planning & Development			VC	VC	(X)		
Public Works and Health		(X)				VC	VC
Climate Action and Natural Resources				(X)	VC	VC	
Select 2 Natural Res. Committee members as Representatives to Lake Whatcom Policy Group				X	X		
Other Committee Assignments							
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee	X				ALT		
Bellingham International Airport Advisory							X
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce		X					ALT
Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (non-voting)						ALT	X
Child and Family Well-Being Task Force		X			ALT		
Climate Impact Advisory Committee Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (**3 year term) ORD2022-021				X			
Council of Governments (COG) Appoint TWO members to serve on the Full Council (can not be Exec Pro-Tem)					X	X	
Council of Governments (COG) Appoint ONE of the above two members to also serve on Transportation Policy Board (cannot be Exec Pro-Tem)					X	ALT	
Developmental Disabilities Board		X					
Drayton Harbor & Portage Bay Shellfish Protection Districts			ALT			X	
EDI Board (changed to 1 CM per AB2024-870)		ALT					X
EMS Oversight Board Representative				X			
EMS Oversight Board Alternate Representative			ALT				
Flood Control Zone Committee (Ex Officio)					X		ALT
Forest Advisory Committee (non voting per AB2025-120)			X	ALT			
Health Board Chair	(appointment held until Feb. 3, 2026)						

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As of 1/13/2026

Other Committee Assignments (Con't)	Barry Buchanan	Elizabeth Boyle	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jessica Rienstra	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (And Appoint one alternate)	X	ALT					
Intergovernmental Tribal Relations Committee (Appt. TWO)					X	X	
Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee (JPOP)	X	ALT					
Justice Project Finance and Facility Advisory Board	X						
Joint Advisory Workgroup for Justice Project planning purposes (AB2025-699) - <i>appoint 3</i>	X			X			X
LEOFF Board	X						
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)			X		ALT		
Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee - Appoint ONE non-voting attendee						X	
OPTIONAL: Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee Alt. - Appoint TWO alternates if Council wishes			ALT				
Marine Resources Committee				X			
Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) (AB2023-194)	X						
North Sound Behavioral Health Exec. Committee	X				ALT		
Northwest Clean Air Agency				X			
Northwest Regional Council (NWRC)							X
Opportunity Council Appointment not subject to Council annual re-org	(KG serves on this committee until 1/2028)						
Public Defense Advisory		ALT	X				
Public Health Advisory Board						X	
Racial Equity Commission Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (** 2 year term) AB2022-590				X	ALT		
Solid Waste Advisory Committee							X
SWISS Alternate Committee Member. <i>Council Chair serves on Exec. Committee</i>						X	
WSAC Alternate Board Member (The Executive is the active representative, Councilmember is alternate)				X			
WSAC Optional Alternate Board Member (Res2019-008)					X		
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee				X	ALT		
WSAC Timber Counties Caucus				X			ALT
WSAC Coastal Counties Caucus - Optional				X			
Whatcom Transportation Authority (<i>appoint 2 councilmembers per bylaw</i>)	X				X		
Whatcom County Tourism Board (AB2023-194)		ALT		X			